

The WHO, WHAT, and WHY of Newborn Hearing Screening

WHO?

Your baby, and every baby born in Indiana, should be screened for hearing loss BEFORE your baby leaves the hospital. If your baby is not born in a hospital, call the nearest hospital to set up a time to have the screening completed before your baby is one month old. If the hospital cannot complete the screening, call the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program at 888.815.0006. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may access Relay Indiana to assist you with this call at 711, if needed.

Has your baby's hearing been screened?

WHAT?

A hearing screening checks to see if your baby's hearing is normal or if more testing is needed. The screening is quick, easy, and can be done while your baby sleeps or rests quietly. Two ways to screen hearing are OAE (Otoacoustic Emissions) and ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response). Both of these are safe and do not hurt your baby.

- ☐ The OAE is done by putting a tiny microphone in each of your baby's ears, and checking each ear's response to sounds.
- ☐ The ABR is done by putting three electrodes on your baby's head and checking the brain's response to sounds played in your baby's ears.

WHY?

If not found early, hearing loss can delay the normal growth of your baby's speech and language skills. About every 48 hours, a baby is born in Indiana with hearing loss. Hearing loss cannot be seen. Your baby cannot tell you if he or she cannot hear your voice and other important sounds.

If a hearing loss is present, there is hope and help available. Research shows babies born with hearing loss that is found early have a good chance of learning speech and language like other babies.

Questions?

Call the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program at 888.815.0006 or go online to www.hearing.in.gov. We can answer questions about your baby's hearing. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may access Relay Indiana to assist you with a TDD call at 711 if needed.

Your primary care provider or your medical home can help. This is your baby's doctor or other medical provider who helps keep your child healthy and oversees your child's medical needs.

For general questions or concerns about your baby, call the Indiana Family Help Line at 800.433.0746 or go online to www.in.gov/isdh/21047.htm.



Indiana State
Department of Health

The Early
Hearing Detection
& Intervention
Program

Hearing Screening Results

The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

Your baby, _____, born _____,
(name) (birthdate)

received a hearing screening on _____ at _____.
(date) (hospital/clinic)

Results of your baby's hearing screening (circle one):

<i>Right Ear:</i>	Pass	Did Not Pass	Pass with Risk Factor
<i>Left Ear:</i>	Pass	Did Not Pass	Pass with Risk Factor

Your baby's risk factor is: _____

- ☐ **Passed - Your baby likely has normal hearing.**
- ☐ **Did not pass - Your baby should get additional hearing testing, done by an audiologist, as soon as possible.**
- ☐ **Passed with risk factors - Your baby should have follow-up hearing testing done by an audiologist when he or she is 9 to 12 months old.**

Risk factors that can lead to hearing loss in childhood

Some babies who pass the newborn hearing screening may have risk factors that can lead to hearing loss during the first few years of life. Some risk factors for hearing loss include:

- A **family history of children with hearing loss**
- Your baby was exposed to **certain infections before birth**
- Your baby needed a **special procedure to treat jaundice**
(yellow color to skin caused by high bilirubin, a protein normally produced by the body)
- Your baby's **head, face, or ears are shaped differently**
- Your baby has a **neurological** (involves the brain) **condition associated with hearing loss**
- Your baby had **meningitis** (an infection that affects the brain and spinal cord)
- Your baby had a **head injury** that required a hospital stay
- Your baby had certain **ototoxic medications** (medicines that can hurt hearing), such as cancer chemotherapy
- Your baby **stayed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)** 5 or more days after birth

If you have questions about any of the risk factors listed above, or if you are worried about your child's hearing, talk to your child's doctor or contact the EHDI program.